

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The publicly owned airwaves should NOT be used to air political material that is blatantly pro or against one candidate without also airing material that show the "other side".

WICS television station in Springfield , Illinois--- a Sinclair owned station-- has been running short announcements during their news broadcasts for months that are blatant political opinions, not news. This MUST not be allowed to continue. News is news and should be unbiased. Op-ed must be clearly labeled and should NEVER appear during the news itself. WICS consistently runs these pieces during the actual news broadcast--- not at the end of the show.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.